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General Assembly

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Agenda item 112
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

Note by the Secretary-General

1. General Assembly decision 53/410 of 26 October 1998 on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly:
>
> "(a) Requests the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to consider the proposals on new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]
>
> "(b) Further requests those bodies to submit their comments, as a matter of priority, for its consideration."

2. The proposals of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre were submitted to the Bureau of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre earlier this month. Both the Board and the Group endorsed the proposals of the Advisory Committee and the President of the Board and the Chairman of the Group at its thirty-first session have advised the Chairman of the Fifth Committee accordingly. The communications from the President of the Board and the Chairman of the Group to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee are reproduced in annexes I and II to the present note.

3. The General Assembly may wish to take a decision on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, in the light of the endorsement of the proposals of the Advisory Committee (A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11) by the Trade and Development Board and the Joint Advisory Group.

[1] A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11.

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Annex I

Letter dated 16 November 1998 from the President of the Trade and Development Board to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

Please refer to the decision of the Fifth Committee at its fifty-third session, contained in A/53/521, whereby the General Assembly "(a) requests the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to consider the proposals on new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions"; and "(b) further requests those bodies to submit their comments, as a matter of priority, for its consideration."

In accordance with the Fifth Committee's request and in my capacity as President of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, I am pleased to inform you that I have consulted with the Bureau, which has the authority to despatch housekeeping business, including administrative and procedural matters, when the Board itself is not in session, and have obtained an endorsement of the proposals on new administrative arrangements for the ITC as contained in paragraph 11 (c) of A/53/7/Add.3 dated 29 September 1998. I shall inform the executive session of the Trade and Development Board accordingly at its next meeting on 15 December 1998.

Chak Mun See
Ambassador
President of the Trade and Development Board

Annex II

Letter dated 13 November 1998 from the Chairman of the ITC Joint Advisory Group at its thirty-first session to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

Please refer to the decision of the Fifth Committee at its fifty-third session, contained in A/53/521, whereby the General Assembly "(a) requests the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to consider the proposals on new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions"; and "(b) further requests those bodies to submit their comments, as a matter of priority, for its consideration."

In accordance with the Fifth Committee's request and in my capacity as President of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC), I have obtained the views of the Group on this issue, which I have also communicated to the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board. As a result, I am pleased to inform you of the Group's endorsement of the proposals on new administrative arrangements for ITC contained in paragraph 11 (c) of A/53/7/Add.3 dated 29 September 1998.

Nacer Benjelloun-Touimi
Ambassador
Permanent Mission of the
Kingdom of Morocco
Chairman of the 31st session of
the ITC Joint Advisory Group